

America: A Reinterpretation

In a 2015 missive titled *In Praise Of America And Britain* I temerously attempted to eulogize both America and Britain writing, apropos America, that:

"Not that such a land is perfect, paradisal. Far from it: for we humans in our individuality can still be so selfish, so unempathic, so wrong, so murderous. But on balance – in the supra-personal perspective of decades and centuries – it is most certainly preferable to what exists and has existed elsewhere; offering as it does a freedom, a diversity, a tolerance, a goodness, a dream, that (at least in my decades-long experience and studies) exists (and has never heretofore existed) nowhere else on planet Earth. Except, perhaps (and again in my experience), in Britain."

of In the intervening almost-decade much in that land has changed, just as my perception of it, born of an almost-decade of pathei-mathos, of study and reflexion, has somewhat changed; presenced as that fallible and personal learning is in recent essays such as *Reflections On Conflict And Suffering* ¹ and *Notes On War, Suffering, And Personal Judgement*. ²

The learning, as noted in *Reflections On Conflict And Suffering*, concerns three related issues: (i) the question of suffering and what empathy and our human culture of pathei-mathos inform us about suffering; (ii) the temporal nature of all human manufactured abstractions; and (iii) the question of authority.

For modern nations such as America and Britain still rely on supra-personal authority with individuals persuaded to forsake their own judgement, their conscience, when for instance (i) the government of the day decides it is going to invade another land, alone or jointly as in case of Afghanistan and Iraq, or (ii) the government of the day decides to support and arm one side in a foreign war or conflict as in Ukraine and as in the invasion and bombing of Gaza. In both instances the governments invariably claim that what they are doing is necessary, 'just', and moral in order for the declared enemies to be defeated and/or in order for a certain way of life or a society to live or prosper. Furthermore, in both instances their armed forces and/or certain industries (such as those providing weapons) are required or persuaded to support the decision; the armed forces through a supra-personal chain-of-command and the industries through the promise of government funding, through job security, and other means such as propaganda which often invokes patriotism and thus a sense of duty. In practice, the personal suffering that modern nation-States cause or have caused over the past hundred not only continues the periodical pain, trauma, injury, grief, and death inflicted on often 'foreign' individuals over the past four thousand years or more, but increased the multitudes affected.

However, in my weltanschauung of pathei-mathos ³ it is our individual judgement, born of our individual empathy and pathei-mathos with its knowledge of the need for personal humility and the need to alleviate and prevent suffering, which is ethically important and necessary, and which being individual and a wordless appreciation of the numinous, should not be extrapolated by us and should not be extrapolated by others to form or to support anything supra-personal be it ideological, religious, political, military, or otherwise, since all such extrapolations involve denotata and thus the ideations, a dialectic of opposites, the exegesis, and the inclusion/exclusion, the separation-of-otherness, born from them because of their physis.

Since modern nation-States are a causal ideation they are, due to our human physis *en masse*, subject over centuries to temporal change such as successive often divergent governments or leaders, due to ameliorations, reformations, revolutions, and sometimes invasions or loss of territory; and always have an inevitable decline be it economic, and/or due to assimilation, and/or due to military causes.

My conclusion therefore is that I was mistaken almost a decade ago to attempt to eulogize those two nation-States, and will let that then and still public missive remain where it currently is, and perhaps may have migrated to, as a reminder for myself and for others of my continued uncertitude-of-knowing and fallibility.

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1. <https://davidmyatt.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/conflict-and-suffering-dwmyatt.pdf>
2. <https://davidmyatt.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/dwmyatt-notes-war-suffering.pdf>
3. <https://perceiverations.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/numinous-way-pathei-mathos-v7.pdf>

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